

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A multi-chamber oil boom comprising:

a first bladder having an inflatable interior;

a second bladder having an inflatable interior; and

a valve including:

an air passage that communicates between said inflatable interior of said first bladder and said inflatable interior of said second bladder; and

a clamping spring assembly that provides compressive force to flatten said air passage and thereby prevent air travel from said first bladder to said second bladder ~~close said air passage~~ until partial inflation of said inflatable interior of said first bladder causes said air passage to open against the compressive force of said clamping spring assembly to open said air passage from its flattened state and allow air to travel from said inflatable interior of said first bladder to said inflatable interior of said second bladder.

2. (Currently amended) A method for making a multi-chamber oil boom having a valve positioned between a first and second bladder thereof, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a first chamber section;

providing a second chamber section;

forming a first bladder in the first chamber section and a second bladder in the second chamber section, wherein the first and second bladders each have an inflatable interior;

forming a valve including an air passage and a clamping spring assembly, said air passage having an inlet and an outlet, wherein the air passage is biased ~~to remain closed~~ by a said clamping spring assembly to a flattened state that does not permit the flow of air through said air passage;

fixing the valve between the first and second bladders such that the inlet of the air passage of the valve communicates with the inflatable interior of the first bladder and the outlet of the air passage of the valve communicates with the inflatable interior of the second bladder.

3. (New) The multi-chamber oil boom of claim 1, wherein said clamping spring assembly includes opposed springs of flat profile that are urged to press against one another to hold the air passage in the flattened state.

4. (New) The multi-chamber oil boom of claim 3, wherein said clamping spring assembly further includes compressive padding that acts on said opposed springs of flat profile to urge them to hold the air passage in the flattened state.

5. (New) The multi-chamber oil boom of claim 3, wherein said air passage is formed by two opposed separators that do not adhere to one another, and said opposed springs of flat profile press on said opposed separators to hold the air passage in the flattened state.

6. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein said step of forming a valve includes positioning springs of flat profile on opposed sides of the air passage, and biasing the springs to press against one another to hold the air passage in the flattened state.

7. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein said step of forming a valve includes positioning compressive padding over each of said springs of flat profile to urge said springs to press against one another.

8. (New) The method of claim 7, wherein said step of forming a valve includes forming the air passage from opposed separators that do not adhere to one another, the springs

3 of flat profile and the compressive padding acting on said opposed separators to hold  
4 the air passage in the flattened state.